

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03629 010918Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /037 W

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R 050831Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 807

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR SEOUL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, APR 29 - MAY 1

REF: SEOUL 3544 (DTG 280739Z APR 78)

1. WITH NO NEW STORIES BREAKING, WEEKEND PRESS RECHEWED PREVIOUS DAYS' FARE, WORKING UP THE MOST UNIFORMLY POSITIVE TONE WE HAVE SEEN IN MANY MONTHS. CHOSUN ILBO'S DC CORRESPONDENT KIM DAE JOONG SAY ROK-US RELATIONS AS TILTING FROM THE SCANDAL-PLAGUED BACK TO THE BASICALLY FRIENDLY; IN THE PRESS GENERALLY, BRZEZINSKI'S JAPAN COUNCIL SPEECH, HIS FORTHCOMING ASIAN TOUR, THE US ROLE IN THE KAL INCIDENT, THE STRATTON AMENDMENT, ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNACCUSTOMED SUNSHINE MOOD.

2. KAL INCIDENT: SEOUL PRESS REACTS TO SOVIET RELEASE OF CREWMEN WITH A GUSH OF COMMENTARY ON PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED SOVIET-ROK RELATIONS. NORMALLY CONSERVATIVE DONG-A ILBO FRONTPAGES LONG FEATURE BY REPORTER KIM SONG-IK, QUOTING UNNAMED "OBSERVERS" AND "GOV'T OFFICIALS" IN DEVELOPING

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ARGUMENT TO SHOW THAT THE CLEAR SOVIET INTENT IN THE KAL INCIDENT WAS TO DEMONSTRATE A WISH TO WARM RELATIONS WITH THE ROK, "HENCE THE ROK SHOULD NOT WASTE THE OPPORTUNITY CREATED BY THE SOVIET DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS", AS THE SOVIETS AND THE ROK ALIKE "SUFFER IN BEING SHUT OUT BY THE DEVELOPING AMERICAN-JAPANESE-CHINESE ALLIANCE." A STARTING POINT FOR TALKS MIGHT

BE FOUND IN THE SOVIETS' "URGENT NEED FOR NAVIGATIONAL RIGHTS THROUGH THE KOREA STRAIT".

2. WHILE MUCH OF THE PRESS FOLLOWS DONG-A, A MINORITY VIEW HOLD THAT "THE SOVIET RESPONSE WAS BASICALLY FRIENDLY, YET IT IS TOO FARFETCHED TO SEE IN ALL THIS ANY MOMENTUM TOWARDS IMPROVING RELATIONS. THIS WAS AN ISOLATED AND UNPLANNED INCIDENT" (CHUNGANG ILBO). SEMIOFFICIAL KYONGHYANG SINMUN DOES NOT READ ANY PROTENTS IN A KAL VICE-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT KAL "WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO IMPROVE NAVIGATIONAL RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES".

3. DIPLOMATIC PAPERS: ALL PRESS REPORTS RELEASE BY US IN TOKYO OF DOCUMENTS BEARING ON US-ROK RELATIONS IN EARLY 1950'S. SEOUL PRESS ZEROES IN ON ANTI-KOREAN ATTITUDE OF JAPANESE PREMIER SHIGERU YOSHIDA, WHO, IN KOREAN INTERPRETATION OF THESE DOCUMENTS, BULLIED THE US INTO EXCLUDING THE ROK FROM THE LIST OF SIGNATORIES TO THE 1952 PEACE TREATY.

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## Message Attributes

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